



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Montgomery, AL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

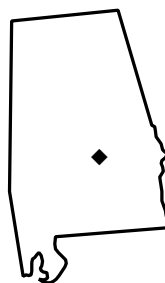
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Montgomery for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The city also was selected to receive additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Montgomery (population 187,106) is the state capital and is situated on the banks of the Alabama River. The riverfront area, which is the target area for this Brownfields Assessment Pilot, has a population of 5,118, 53 percent of whom live below the poverty level and 70 percent are minorities.

For much of Montgomery's history, the Alabama River was the focal point for the city's economic growth. Following the Civil War, industrial development along the riverfront north of the downtown spurred the construction of warehouses and factories. Today, much of the area's growth is occurring to the east of the city and in communities in neighboring counties, leaving many blighted neighborhoods in downtown Montgomery. This growth is drawing tax base away from Montgomery, contributing to urban sprawl, and reducing business and employment opportunities for those remaining in the city.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Montgomery, Alabama

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the dilapidated riverfront area north of downtown Montgomery for assessment and redevelopment into a multi-use commercial, recreational, and residential complex.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 4
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The city's overall objective is to obtain economically viable and sustainable mixed use development along its riverfront. The city intends to accomplish this objective through a planned redevelopment, instead of a piecemeal approach that emphasizes a limited number of isolated projects. The Pilot will conduct a detailed historical land-use assessment of the riverfront to identify potentially contaminated sites. Following this assessment, the Pilot will develop guidance for land use planning. The Pilot will use the majority of funds to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and cost estimates for proposed park and greenspace areas. Finally, the city will enhance the Riverfront Redevelopment Master Plan community involvement program to provide an avenue for effective community participation in the Pilot.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Reviewing riverfront land use history and incorporating the results into a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database;
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments on brownfields sites within the planned riverfront trail area; and
- Implementing the redevelopment plan community participation program.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.